

**REMARKS**

**I. Status of the Application**

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-15 and 17-31 are all the claims pending in the application, as claims 24-31 are hereby added. Applicant respectfully submits that the pending claims define patentable subject matter.

**II. Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1-15 and 17-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tullis (U.S. Patent No. 6,535,243) in view of Allen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,491). Applicant respectfully traverses these claim rejections.

Independent claim 1 recites, in part:

wherein said camera is connected with plural types of external apparatuses wherein an order of priority is preliminarily set among the plural types of the external apparatuses; and

wherein image processing is performed according to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

Thus, claim 1 requires, *inter alia*, that an order of priority be preliminarily set among the plural types of the external apparatuses, and that the image processing be performed according to the priority of the plural types of external apparatuses.

The Examiner concedes that Tullis fails to teach or suggest the above-mentioned features of claim 1. Nevertheless, the Examiner asserts that Allen teaches these features. Specifically,

the Examiner contends that in Allen, priority is set preliminarily before the image data is sent to the image fulfillment center in the form of control signals attached to the image data, and that the image fulfillment center performs image processing according to the priority set. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's position.

Assuming, *arguendo*, that the printer (42), secondary transmission channels (46) and removable media recording device (48) of Allen correspond to the plural types of external apparatuses recited by claim 1, Allen fails to teach or suggest an order of priority being preliminarily set among the plural types of external apparatuses, as claim 1 requires.

On the contrary, Allen only discloses sending voice-commanded control signals to the image fulfillment server (34), wherein one or more of the devices responds to the voice command. Specifically, Allen states:

In operation, a photographer captures the image of a scene with the digital camera 10, and verbally instructs the camera to perform one or more of the command functions listed in Table 1.

...

The central processor 37 responds to the control signals to effect requested services related to the digital image.<sup>1</sup>

In other words, no priority is set among the devices within the image fulfillment center. Instead, requested services are effected based only on control signals received by the image fulfillment server (34). In other words, Allen merely selects a device which performs the instructed

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<sup>1</sup> See Allen, col. 3, lines 49-52 and col. 4, lines 27 and 28.

function, e.g., the printer is selected when instructed to print. Thus, no order of priority is set under Allen.

For example, when only one service is requested by a user, e.g., the “Print” command,<sup>2</sup> only the printer service would be effected. While the printer (42) is selected as a result, none of the other devices would respond since their services were not commanded by the user. Thus, no order of priority is set among the plural types of external apparatuses, nor is image processing performed according to any preliminarily set priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, as claim 1 requires.

Similarly, if several services are selected, for example, “Print” and “Write,” Allen fails to teach or suggest setting a priority among the selected devices. Rather, Allen merely discloses receiving the control signals at the image fulfillment server (34), and responding to the received control signals. That is, no order of priority is set among the plural types of external apparatuses, nor is image processing performed according to any preliminarily set priority among the plural types of external apparatuses, as claim 1 requires.

In view of the above, the applied references Tullis and Allen, fail to teach or suggest all of the required features of claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. Further, since independent claims 8, 14, 15 and 20-23 recite features similar to those of claim 1, Applicant submits that claims 8, 14, 15 and 20-23 are patentable over the applied references for reasons analogous to those stated above regarding claim 1.

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<sup>2</sup> See Allen, Table 1.

Finally, Applicant submits that dependent claims 2-13 and 17-19 are patentable over the applied references, at least by virtue of their respective dependency on claims 1 and 15.

Similarly, Applicant submits that new dependent claims 24-31 are also patentable over the applied references, at least by virtue of their respective dependency on claims 1, 8, 14, 15 and 20-23.

### III. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

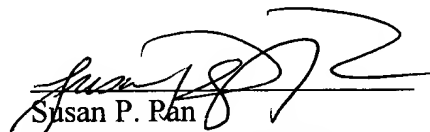
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